

most part typically Picine in character, though we are to note that the sub-median longitudinal capital apertium is but barely discernible, while I utterly failed to detect the presence of any naked temporal spaces whatever. In these particulars, *M. torquatus* nearly agrees with *Sphyrapicus*. The uropygial papilla is tufted, but the glands lying beneath the skin are small and elongated.

After having removed the integuments, it is seen that the free extremities of the limbs of the hyoid extend only as far forward as the middle of the parietal region, or the vault of the cranium; otherwise the lingual apparatus of this species seems to be as we find it in other Woodpeckers. It has a markedly small heart for the size of the bird, and the tissue of the liver is of a very friable nature. The gizzard is large and muscular, its periphery being raised into bounding muscular ridges, and the *musculi intermedii* very prominent. Making a section through it, I find a firm, rugose, horny lining, and its contents consisting of a quantity of small-sized hard-winged beetles, of a species unknown to me. Intestinal caeca are absent, and the intestinal tract, for its lower part, is of a very large calibre. Even at this time of the year, the ovaries in this specimen are small, the largest ova being no bigger than No. 4 shot. An account of the skeleton of this species will be given by the writer in another connection, when it will be fully compared with the skeletons of other North American species of the same group. — R. W. SHUFFELDT, *Fort Wingate, New Mexico*.

Early nesting of *Octocoris alpestris praticola*.—March 26, 1888, while returning from a trip after Crossbills, I flushed a female Horned Lark within one hundred feet of where I found my first nest last season (April 11, 1887), and as she acted as they usually do when nesting, out of curiosity I began to search, and was rewarded by finding the nest, a mere cavity in the side of a sandy knoll, lined with dead grasses, a little thistle down, and a few mayweed blossoms. The eggs had been incubated a few days. On the 21st, 22d, and 23d the thermometer ranged in the vicinity of zero, and in fact the spring has been very backward. When you approach the nest, *usually* the female sneaks from two to three rods before flying, then flies to a short distance, observes you closely, begins to pick on the ground, and then flies to a distant part of the field to be joined by her mate. Occasionally a female will hover for a moment over you, if you are close to the nest, but they vary so in actions that it is hard to describe the different peculiarities.

Since the above I have taken other sets. April 3, three nests of three eggs each in stubble fields on knolls. April 4, one set of four eggs, much incubated, in oat stubble. April 6, set of four fresh eggs in stubble, and the same day a nest with one young fledgling, which I should judge to have been two or three days old, on the side of a knoll in a newly seeded meadow. The young bird was about a foot outside of the nest, and very cold, but alive, for which I cannot account as the old birds were flushed about a rod from the nest. April 7, nest of four nearly fresh eggs, in oat

stubble as usual, on the side of a knoll. I find these birds breeding as late as June in favorable localities, "barren fields with not much if any herbage in them," which shows they must at least raise two broods annually. Before nesting the male is very active, singing from early morning until late evening, both on the ground and high up in the air. But as soon as the female begins her incubation he becomes silent, and keeps in a distant part of the field to warn her, as I often have seen him do, by flying close to her in the nest, *but not alighting*, soon to be followed by her and chased around as when mating.

Where early in the season you saw dozens of pairs singing, you will be surprised at the quietness now. But after beating about the field you will begin to disturb them, and will find as many birds as formerly.—GEO. E. HARRIS, *Buffalo, N. Y.*

Pine Grosbeak in Fulton Co., Kentucky.—The Evening Grosbeak has not appeared this winter as yet, but he has been replaced by the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*), a flock of which, numbering eight or ten individuals, mostly females, appeared Feb. 7, 1888. On the 8th, 11th and 13th they were again seen, and on the 24th Mr. T. L. M'Cutchen who collected some for me in 1887, secured four specimens, one male and three females, but I was away from home, and he, not knowing the bird, did not keep them. On seeing me he gave me an excellent description of them and said he had shot, but not secured, a female on the 25th. Three or four females were seen yesterday, March 19.—L. O. PINDAR, *Hickman, Ky.*

Occurrence of the Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) and also of Maccown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes maccownii*) in Apache Co., Arizona.—During the winter of 1887-88, I had several times noticed a small flock of birds which I did not know, about a mile west of the town of St. Johns, the county seat of this county (Apache), but as I usually had only a rifle or six-shooter I was unable to obtain a specimen for identification. About the 8th of March, however, my friend Mr. E. W. Nelson stated that he had lately obtained several specimens of the Chestnut-collared Longspur and showed me several. I at once guessed that the unknown birds I had seen were of the same species, and next time I came in to St. Johns, on the 10th of March, I brought my shot-gun. On my way out I saw the little flock, and was fortunate enough to procure four specimens which I packed up and took out to the ranch. I skinned three which were all *C. ornatus*, but on taking up the fourth I was at once struck by the greater size, heavier beak, bay on the wing-coverts, and black cap of the specimen in my hand. I looked it up and found it was undoubtedly *Rhynchophanes maccownii*. Next day I shot a second specimen about twenty miles southwest of St. Johns, also two more of *C. ornatus*. I showed this specimen to Mr. Nelson on March 14 and he agreed with me as to the species. On the same day about a mile west of St. Johns I found a large flock of *R. maccownii*, and shot eleven more specimens. At